

to come. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of H.R. 2884.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation to provide a tax relief package for the victims of Tuesday's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington DC. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this appropriate and necessary measure.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday our Nation suffered an unprecedented terrorist attack in both the scope of its depravity, and in the magnitude of the resulting destruction of both life and property. At this time, the full extent of the number of casualties from the attack on the World Trade Center in New York remains unknown. Not only did thousands of people perish in the fires and subsequent collapse of the twin towers at the Trade Center, but hundreds of brave New York firefighters and police officers lost their lives in attempting to rescue those trapped in the towers.

There was a similar simultaneous disaster at the Pentagon where the fire resulting from the attacking airplane burned for more than 24 hours. The process of retrieving the dead has only just started at the Pentagon site.

Mr. Speaker, we in the Congress will never be able to fully recompense the loss suffered by the thousands of families of those who perished. Moreover, we can never hope to repay the heroic sacrifices made by those brave rescue workers who selflessly laid down their lives in an attempt to rescue the victims.

We do, however, have the ability to offer a small measure of our appreciation to ensure that these families are not burdened by any unexpected liability when tax-filing season comes around next spring. If we do nothing, the cruel irony is that many families will face an unexpected and unpleasant burden next April.

This legislation extends the estate tax reduction provisions established for members of the Armed Forces who are killed or die from injuries received while serving in a combat zone to those individuals who were killed in Tuesday's terrorist attack or who die from injuries suffered in that attack.

It also extends to the victims of Tuesday's attack the benefits already in place for federal military and civilian employees that exempts them from paying income taxes in the year of their death if they die from a terrorist attack.

Finally, this bill exempts any FEMA assistance payments, and passenger payments from United and possibly American Airlines from federal income taxes.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the cost to human life from Tuesday's terrorist attack, and in the noble and selfless sacrifice made by hundreds of New York's

finest police and firefighters, this bill represents a necessary and appropriate course of action by this Congress. Accordingly, I strongly urge its adoption.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this important and compassionate legislation, the Victims' Tax Relief Package.

In this time of great anger and sadness, there is an overwhelming feeling of helplessness as we watch the constant news reports from the sites of the wreckage. We yearn for something we can do to comfort and aid the families of those who have lost loved ones to this horrible violence. We yearn for something we can do to provide solace and support for those thousands of people who still await word on the fate of their family and friends still lost in the rubble in New York City or Western Pennsylvania or Arlington, Virginia.

Eventually, our nation will find and punish those who committed these heinous acts. But, until then, passage of this relief package is the least that we can do for these survivors.

The bill will exempt from taxation the payments that these families receive from airlines to compensate them for their grievous loss. It will exempt from taxation any assistance payments that victims of these tragic events receive from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It will also give the families of our military and civilian employees who lost their lives as a result of Tuesday's attack a reprieve from their federal income tax and estate tax this year.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this is the very least that we can provide these families who have suffered the full brunt of the evil that was perpetrated against our country. And, I hope it is but one of the first steps we take as a Congress. I am proud to stand with my colleagues and with my President in this effort, and I urge us to make passage of this bill a unanimous declaration of our support.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the bill is considered as read for amendment and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 2:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 2:30 p.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida) at 2 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

VICTIMS OF TERRORISM RELIEF ACT OF 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of the passage of the bill, H.R. 2884, on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 418, nays 0, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 340]

YEAS—418

Abercrombie	Chambliss	Frank
Ackerman	Clay	Frelinghuysen
Aderholt	Clayton	Frost
Akin	Clement	Gallegly
Allen	Clyburn	Ganske
Andrews	Coble	Gekas
Armey	Collins	Gephardt
Baca	Combest	Gibbons
Bachus	Condit	Gilchrest
Baird	Cooksey	Gillmor
Baker	Costello	Gilman
Baldacci	Cox	Gonzalez
Baldwin	Coyne	Goode
Ballenger	Cramer	Goodlatte
Barcia	Crane	Gordon
Barr	Crenshaw	Goss
Barrett	Crowley	Graham
Bartlett	Cubin	Granger
Barton	Culberson	Graves
Bass	Cummings	Green (TX)
Becerra	Cunningham	Green (WI)
Bentsen	Davis (CA)	Greenwood
Bereuter	Davis (FL)	Grucci
Berkley	Davis, Jo Ann	Gutierrez
Berman	Davis, Tom	Gutknecht
Berry	Deal	Hall (OH)
Biggert	DeFazio	Hall (TX)
Bilirakis	DeGette	Hansen
Bishop	Delahunt	Harman
Blagojevich	DeLauro	Hart
Blumenauer	DeLay	Hastings (FL)
Blunt	DeMint	Hastings (WA)
Boehlert	Deutsch	Hayes
Boehner	Diaz-Balart	Hayworth
Bonilla	Dicks	Hefley
Bonior	Dingell	Herger
Bono	Doggett	Hill
Borski	Dooley	Hilleary
Boswell	Doolittle	Hilliard
Boucher	Doyle	Hinchey
Boyd	Dreier	Hinojosa
Brady (PA)	Duncan	Hobson
Brady (TX)	Dunn	Hoefl
Brown (FL)	Edwards	Hoekstra
Brown (OH)	Ehlers	Holden
Brown (SC)	Ehrlich	Holt
Bryant	Emerson	Honda
Burr	Engel	Hooley
Burton	English	Horn
Buyer	Eshoo	Hostettler
Callahan	Etheridge	Houghton
Calvert	Evans	Hoyer
Camp	Everett	Hulshof
Cannon	Farr	Hunter
Cantor	Fattah	Hyde
Capito	Ferguson	Inslee
Capps	Filner	Isakson
Capuano	Flake	Israel
Cardin	Fletcher	Issa
Carson (IN)	Foley	Istook
Carson (OK)	Forbes	Jackson (IL)
Castle	Ford	Jackson-Lee
Chabot	Fossella	(TX)